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tions of new titles on American history, thus keeping the Larned volume up to date.

Special classes of people have not been forgotten in the preparation of aids. The children have had the first and most continuous consideration. To guide their reading have been issued Sargent's *Reading for the young*, and Hewins' *Books for boys and girls* in two independent editions. Another list of similar character is now being prepared by the Carnegie library in Pittsburgh.

Foreigners have been the latest class to be helped. The brief *List of French fiction* issued some years ago, was intended rather for English speaking people who wished to read French. Lists are now in preparation, intended to help the foreign people among us to learn of American history and customs through their own language, as well as to guide them in finding the best in their own literature.

The books already mentioned have been of use to the individuals and libraries who knew in a measure what they wished to accomplish. But there are many communities untouched by the library, and for these a series of tracts and handbooks are being issued, pointing out why a public library is needed, and how to start it, and giving information about buildings and furnishings, administration of libraries, cataloging, etc.

A new edition of the *List of subject headings*, and a code of *A. L. A. catalog rules* prepared by a committee of the A. L. A. are the next important publications to be issued.

The Publishing Board has a wide field of work, and one capable of almost infinite extension, as the Board secures additional means for publication and learns by experience how to provide most efficiently the tools which libraries need.

A large part of its present financial support the Board owes to Mr Carnegie's endowment of \$100,000, the income of which is at its disposal for preparation of library aids. This gift was a logical supplement to Mr Carnegie's other great gifts for the pro-

motion of libraries. Library buildings are useless unless well stocked with books and wisely administered. An endowment which supports the publication of useful library guides and manuals, thereby facilitates the administration of libraries and is of direct value to every library founded.

But the Board cannot do its best work without the support and cooperation of libraries themselves, in suggesting work to be done, helping in the preparation of lists and other aids, and using what the Board publishes. The Board does not aim to make money, its prime object being service, but it does try to make its sales pay for at least the cost of manufacture of its publications.

Will you not see that your library and its trustees do their share towards helping others by supporting the work of the Publishing Board?

Book-binding Committee

Points Worth Remembering in Rebinding Fiction and Juvenile Books

1 It is generally not advisable to mend books in the original publisher's binding. Loose leaves or illustrations may be tipped in if the work is carefully done, but no attempt should be made to fix loose signatures, and on no account should paste be put on the back of the book. If this is done it will be impossible to have the book rebound so that it will wear well. The life of the book is really shortened by such false economy. If the book is broken at the joint even to a very small extent, send at once to be rebound.

2 Do not resew and put back in publisher's covers. If the book is properly sewed and backed it will be too large for the original covers. It also makes it impossible to rebind, so that the book will wear well. If properly rebound the first time the book goes to the bindery, it will circulate as many times as if it had been recased and then rebound, and the expense will be less.

3 Do not wait till the book falls apart before sending to the bindery. As soon as a book becomes a trifle shaky in the

covers, send to the bindery. Further wear injures the backs of each signature, and makes it impossible to rebind without whipstitching. A whipstitched book does not open as readily as one sewed on tapes. In order to sew on tapes or bands the signatures must be whole. Many librarians make a book circulate in the original publisher's binding until it is practically worn out, and then blame the binders because the book does not wear well when rebound. No binder can do good work when the book has been allowed to circulate many times after it has become shaky in the covers. The life of the book will be greatly increased if care is taken in this respect.

4 The first and last signatures, which receive the most wear, and which in most rebound books give way first, should be guarded with muslin. End papers should also be guarded with muslin.

5 All torn leaves should be carefully mended. Always use paste, never use glue or mucilage for this kind of work. All illustrations should be guarded and folded around the signature. If tipped in, as is customary, they usually come out.

6 Sew on tapes, using three at least. It is sometimes difficult to get binders to use tapes instead of bands, but tapes should be insisted on. The tapes or strings should, of course, be cased in. If a book has to be whipstitched, of course bands must be used. All books should be sewed "all along."

7 Books should be trimmed as little as possible.

8 Leather backs should be used; preferably American cow hide. If good roan can be obtained, it will last as well as the cow hide. When specifying cow hide be sure that the binder does not use buffing, which is a split cow hide and much inferior. Books bound in art vellum, buckram or other book cloths become shaky sooner than those bound in leather. Moreover, if a light-colored cloth is used, so that the backs may be lettered in ink, they become much soiled, and the lettering eventually is practically

obliterated. Gold lettering on dark-colored cloths also becomes obliterated. A leather-backed book, if properly bound, wears longer, holds the lettering better, and looks well on the shelves even when ready to be withdrawn from circulation. If it is thought best to use cloth, imperial morocco cloth is perhaps the best.

9 Binders should be cautioned against using too much glue. A book which crackles, or, as one binder puts it, "grits its teeth" when opened, has not had the superfluous glue removed in forwarding. Some binders have had good results in using flexible or rubber glue. It is not necessary, however, and ordinary glue if used properly will do just as well.

10 Most binders use a super for fastening the book into the covers. This is generally very coarse, and will not wear. Insist on his using a stronger material. A muslin of suitable weight or canton flannel will be found satisfactory.

11 Lettering on the back should consist of author, short title, and call number. Some librarians also stamp a mark of ownership at the bottom of the book. Most binders will give a price per volume which will include all lettering.

McClure, Phillips & Co. have agreed to bind at least 500 copies of Hill's *The Pettison twins* in a special binding for the use of libraries. This book will be included in the *A. L. A. booklist*, and all libraries are urged to order this edition through their regular agents in preference to the regular edition. The price to libraries will be \$1.10.

The Congressional Committee on Printing is trying to get from librarians an expression of opinion regarding the material to be used in binding Government documents. According to law, leather-bound sets must be bound in sheep. Librarians who have the sheep-bound set in their libraries should write at once to Charles B. Landis, of the House of Representatives, protesting against the further use of sheep in binding Government documents.

The publishers have agreed to bind the following books in a special library edition:
 Brainerd — *Bettina*. Doubleday, Page & Co.

De la Pasture — *Lonely lady of Grosvenor square*. Dutton.

Locke — *The beloved vagabond*. Lane.

Mott — *The white darkness*. Outing.

Bindloss — *The dust of conflict*. Stokes.

In ordering these books through regular agents care should be taken that the special library edition is specified. The extra cost of these books will in no case be more than ten cents.

A. L. BAILEY,

Institute Free Library, Wilmington, Del.

W. P. CUTTER,

Forbes Library, Northampton, Mass.

Dr G. E. WIRE,

Worcester County Law Library, Worcester, Mass.

League of Library Commissions

Nine library commissions and state libraries having departments engaged in library extension work issue bulletins of information and news. Most of these appear at quarterly intervals, one is a bi-monthly, and a few are issued at irregular periods. The bulletins comprise the following:

News notes of California libraries, issued by the California State Library. Monthly. Began publication May, 1906.

Library Occurrent, issued by the Public Library Commission of Indiana. Began publication April, 1906.

Indiana State library monthly bulletin, issued monthly by the Indiana State Library. Began publication May, 1905.

Bulletin of the Iowa library commission, issued quarterly by the Iowa Library Commission. Began publication January, 1902, as a bulletin issued by Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin, and later issued as a bulletin of the Iowa Commission.

Library notes and news, issued at irregular intervals by the Minnesota State Library Commission. Began publication December, 1904.

Nebraska library bulletin, issued at irregular intervals by the Nebraska Public Library Commission. Began publication February, 1906.

Bulletin of the New Hampshire public libraries, issued quarterly by the Trustees of the State Library. Began publication in 1901.

Bulletin of the Vermont library commission, issued quarterly by the Vermont Library Commission. Began publication March, 1905.

Washington library association bulletin, issued quarterly by the Washington Library Association. Began publication April, 1905.

Wisconsin library bulletin, issued bi-monthly by the Wisconsin Free Library Commission. Began publication January, 1905.

Committee on Public Documents

The Committee makes the announcement that two hours of the *fourth general session* at the Asheville Conference will be given over to the consideration of the public document question. Among the speakers will be the Public Printer and the Superintendent of Documents.

This feature of the program has been arranged solely that librarians, and especially those of depository libraries, may have the opportunity of meeting the authorities in charge of the printing and distribution of public documents.

This is the first time such an opportunity will have been provided, and all depository libraries, in particular, that can possibly do so are urged to avail themselves of it. The Committee will welcome suggestions.

ADELAIDE R. HASSE, *Chairman*

425 Lafayette St., New York City